Mat-Su Monitor

February 2016 VOLUME 39 NUMBER 4

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COMING SOON!

Mat-su Student Ambassadors

Presents

Alice in Wonderland Spring Carnival

March 10

YOUR STORY COULD BE HERE!

Write an interesting paper for a class? Experience something on campus that you want to share with others? Have a strong opinion about an issue? Just want to share a poem or short story? Now any student can submit content through the Monitor's webpage! Just Search "Monitor" on the college website to find it.

We Want You!

To run for Student Government!

To apply for President or Vice President fill out the candidacy packet available at the Student Government Office (JKB 114). Return it and a letter of intent by April 8, 2016.

Upcoming events:

February 22 - Priority registration for Fall.

March 04 - CIOS workshop on the Microsoft Word smartphone/tablet app;

March 10 - Spring Carnival

March 13 - Mat-Su Concert Band concert at Glenn Massay Theater.

March 14-19 - MSC Spring Break;

March 25 - CIOS workshop on the Microsoft Excel smartphone/tablet app;

April 15 - CIOS workshop on the Microsoft PowerPoint smartphone/tablet app;

Club meeting times:

Alaska Native Cultures Club: Mondays, 11:50-12:50. FSM 201.

Tobacco Support Group: Tuesdays, OLB 122 12:00

Dance Club: Wednesdays, 1:30 Glenn Massay Theater.

Game Designer's Club: Tuesdays Jkb 108 4:00 - 5:00

Gamer's Club: Tues, OLB 214 Pathfinder game 11:30 - 12:30 Fridays JKB 108 Magic: The Gathering 12 - 3:00.

Mat-Su Monitor: Mondays and Thursdays, 12:00-12:50. Library room 213.

Student Body Government Agenda

By Philip Jean

The purpose of this is to inform the students of Matanuska-Susitna College (Matsu College) of what is being discussed in Student government meetings, and to inform the student body of what their Student Body Government is doing for them. Here is the scoop of what has been approved.

- The Health and Wellness Committee has approved and spent $45,000 to purchase 100 memberships to the AT&T Sports Center for three semesters. Membership is available as a "first come, first serve" opportunity for Mat-Su College students. Coupons are available at the Student Government office. If interested, stop by the Student Government office as soon as possible.
- The Sports Committee is in the process of getting approval to make a frolf course to be located on the Matsu College campus. If approved, it will be the only frolf course here in the valley.
- It's that time of year when Matsu College is looking to vote for a new Student Body Government President and Vice President. With the right GPA you can run for President or Vice-president (rumor is, there is no one competing for either office). On Election Day there will be a barbecue in conjunction with elections. This will be conducted in mid-April.

MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON YOUR COMMUNITY

Play an important role on the Mat-Su College Campus. Being on a committee can help to enhance your career, give you a chance to give back to your community, and give you the opportunity to challenge yourself by helping to shape your society.

Current Mat-Su College Committees open to the student body:

- Constitution Committee
- Dance Committee
- Finance committee
- Pizza Committee
- Planning Committee
- Student Media Board
- Health and Wellness Committee
- Renewable Energies Committee
- Sports Committee
- Concert Committee
- Mat-Su Safety Crew

Or join one of the student clubs. Clubs are a great place to meeet like minded people, have fun, learn new things and relax.

- Mat-Su Carbon Crew
- Mat-Su Dance Club
- Mat-Su Monitor
- Alaska Native Culture Club
- Mat-Su College Games Club
- Game Designers Club
- Tobacco Support Group

Joining a committee or club looks good on resumes as well as gives you a chance to connect with fellow students, staff and faculty. You owe it to yourself to try them out. If you don't see a club that interests you, you can start one of your own. Student Government will fund you up to $300 to cover expenses. You can pick up a form at the Student Government office in JKB 114, near the café.

Heather's Top 8 Advice Bits for Studying

by Heather Deadmond

With the new semester only a month underway, you may not be thinking of final exams just yet. However, it is never too early to develop good study habits! If you get "into the groove" of studying effectively now, then when finals roll around you will be the most prepared!

Not all of these tips may be useful for everyone. We all have different learning styles and different techniques that work for each of us, so do take these tips with a grain of salt. Hopefully, they will help you discover your own method of effective studying.

1. Don't study at home, if you can help it.

As for me, I can't concentrate when I am studying at my house. That's where most of the distractions are. There are plenty of quiet, comfortable places to study both on campus and around town. My favorite is the library, because all the resources that you may need are at your fingertips. There's even a new quiet study room available upstairs for when you need it.

2. Shut off electronics

I'm sure at this point, everyone knows that our phones are gigantic distractions. Set it to silent or vibrate, and leave it in your bag or across the room. This also goes for the TV. You will not get more work done with Netflix on in the background, trust me. Stay off of social media, as well.

3. Listen to music without lyrics.

Classical music works best for me. Listening with earbuds may be even better, as you won't be distracted by outside noise while the music is playing

4. Make flashcards

This is espeially helpful when you have a class with lots of memorization, but they can be used for a variety of subjects. Have a friend or relative test you with the cards in random order to help you remember the material.

5. Set up a reward system

Treat yourself to breaks every 30 minutes or so, to refresh your mind and give you something to work towards. You can also add candy to the mix by buying yourself a bag of it and only eating one piece every time you finish reading a chapter. My method is allowing myself to play one level of Candy Crush every 15 to 20 minutes that I spend studying.

6. Tackle one subject at a time.

It helps your brain to focus more if you're not studying math and English in the same sitting. It may feel productive to study more than one subject at once, but it's better overall to study one until you're finished and then move on to the next subject.

7. Study together

It may help you to find a study group for the class that you're in. Studying with others who have different strengths means that they will be there to help when you're struggling. It has also been proven that explaining a concept to someone else helps you understand it better as well.

8. Study smart

Don't slack off on studying consistently throughout the semester!!! Even if your class doesn't use the required textbook much, be sure to utilize the information in it. Studying what you've learned in class not only solidifies it in your mind, but also makes studying for the final exam much easier. Take it small chunks at a time through the semester, and you'll be more successful in the long run.

Good luck and study hard! ☺

The Second King: Part Six of Seven

By Brian Conaway

Editor's note: readers can find past installments of this series beginning in the February 2015 issue of the Monitor. Back issues are online at http://matsu.alaska.edu/news/mat-su-monitor-newspaper/

Bennevon

236 B.W.C. ***Before War of Calamities***

The Wild Isles were appropriately named. Massive hills were ringed in by and crowned with copses of summer colored trees. At the heart of the central island of this neutral zone of an archipelago there rested an enormous lake, fathoms deep and utterly transparent. Benn often vividly remembered when had first visited this place as a child and seeing the white sand at the bottom. He recalled the vast grottos beneath the lake as intricate and labyrinthine as the dungeons of his father's palace.

During that time or any time since he had not visited the Valley of Vaard. It was a foreboding place that scarred the land's western half. Within the western wall of that valley was the entrance to a cave tenfold the size of those grottos, in which resided the Dark Artist as its sole occupant. The entrance was ten feet tall and ten feet wide, its corners were sealed together by rows of hair thin laces of steel, set ablaze by the unwavering vigilance of the Phoenix, the dragon's Arbitrator.

Benn had been seen up by the guarding dragon. "Never let it be said among our kinds that we are not friends," the dragon said, "but never let it be said that a dragon may ever be saddled like a horse at a man's whim."

"I understand," Benn told him. Satisfied, the dragon bellowed for the Menace to come forward. Before he did, Benn noticed the vast rows of glyphs and cyphers scrawled about the walls, illuminated by the sun, though appearing as if they swallowed its light as it was cast into the abysmal cavern. Benn could not translate them, but he was loathe to guess what they read. *Do they tell of a dreadful night, I wonder?*

As the thought occurred to him, however, those glyphs were screened from view by their author. His face came almost nose to nose with his bars while his pupil-less eyes regarded the Second King with all possible malignity. The grating of metal on stone was heard while he moved. His bulging muscles, grey and corded, were constricted by shackles that dug their teeth into his wrists and elbows. Dried blood crusted them and Benn knew that there was penalty for resistance. He briefly noticed that the limbs of his wings were chained and tied, bolted and shackled to other cuffs on his tail. As a result, his movement was not only limited, but hideously awkward. A steel muzzle—or something that looked like steel— braced his mouth into a permanent fanged sneer.

"Have no fear," the warden told Benn. "The muzzle burns him if he utters an incantation, and the bars weaken his will to do so anyway." The bulging lines around the occupant's maw were visible testament to that.

"That may change," Vaard growled through his muzzle, hardly moving his mouth. Only his forked tongue was moving behind his teeth, though it was certainly the same guttural vocalization Benn had been told it was. It was certainly revolting to watch his lips remain still while his jaw moved up and down anyway. Benn willed away a shudder in the brief silence that followed.

"I am, if anything else, very pleased that thou considered thyself worthy enough to answer my entreaty of visitation. I have grown quite lonely in my solitude. Thou art well received by His Lordship Sorcerion."
"You are less than a criminal," Benn said, "How do you call yourself *lord*?"

Sorcerion glared, his snaky eyebrows furrowed downward at the Second King, a rat to him be he a lord or not. "I confess no wrongdoing, Bennevon Antock. I was the stronger, the wiser, the better. My brother branded it *tricks.* I brand it vision. We shall see whose brand sears hotter on history." Steam emerged from flared nostrils, and the muzzle below flared white-red in response. Benn only blinked patiently.

"Why did you summon me?"

"It is no small feat to slay a giant."

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Math Clinic

Fridays

SGH 103

8am -3 pm

Faculty will be available as follows:

Dr. Graham

10:30-12:30pm &

1:30-3pm on 2/29, 3/11

11:00 - 3pm on 2/12 & 4/8

Dr. Allen

8:00 - 12pm on 1/22, 2/19, 4/15

Dr. Grabarek

8:00-12pm 2/5, 3/4, 4/1

Math Cram Jam

The Math Department

invites students to study with faculty.

Saturdays

Feb 27, Mar 26, Apr 23

9:00 - 2:00 **In Snodgrass Hall**

HAVE SOME QUESTIONS? TRY ONE OF MAT-SU COLLEGE'S LEARNING SERVICES.

Elizabeth J. Fallon Learning Resource Center*

OLB 121 745-9713 http://matsu.alaska.edu/offices/the-learning-center/tutoring/

WRITING	Mondays 10:00-12:00 & 1:00-5:00 Tuesdays & Thursday 10:00-12:00 & 1:00-4:00 Wednesdays 10:00-12:00 & 2:30-5:00
MATH	Mon / Wed 9:30-5:00 Tues / Thur 9:30- 5:30 Fri 10:00-3:00
BIOLOGY	Thur 1:00- 3:00
ASL	Mondays & Wednesdays 2:00 - 4:00 **FSM 105**

***Tutoring is available only for students enrolled n MSC courses**
Hours are subject to change Tutors available Jan 11-Apr 28

Online Tutoring:

UAA Consortium Library 1pm-midnight.Limited hours per student.

Alaska State Library provides the Live Homework Hotline at tutor.com/alaska from 1pm-2am

www.tutor.com/military for military families who qualify

Khan Academy: Videos (math, science, economics, history) http://www.khanacademy.org/

Foreign Language: http://libraries.mangolanguages.com/alaska/start (includes English)

Writing: http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/index.html , http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/rules7e/#t_669460
http://www.paperrater.com/ , http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/

ALL TESTING APPOINTMENTS MUST BE MADE ONLINE

Economist Neal Fried Delivers Lecture on Campus

By Caleb Berry

On February 11, 2016 economist Neal Fried delivered a spectacular lecture on the current economy of the great state of Alaska and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, here at our own Glenn Massay Theater. The lecture was commissioned by Northrim Bank as part of their charitable goal to offer business lectures in the valley. Mr. Fried has worked with the Alaska Department of labor for over 20 years, becoming a leading expert on the Alaskan economy and studying the trends of the hard-working men and women that fuel it. Mr. Fried's lecture was both informative and entertaining, as Mr. Fried shared some tough facts mixed with good news to the citizens of the valley. Contrary to popular belief, the Alaskan economy is not about to collapse. Northrim bank also presented Dr. Talis Colberg with a generous donation of $5,000 to Mat-Su College to continue with their mission of bringing business lectures to the community. Overall, it was an encouraging and enlightening night in our beautiful new theater.

Stay Flexible in Uncertain Times

By K.B. Holbrook

Low oil prices have a lot of Alaskans concerned about our economy and what it means for job opportunities. We know there are going to be more state budget cuts, military cuts, and oil job cuts in the next couple of years, but no one is sure what the toll will be on the overall economy in Alaska. It is unclear whether the Alaskan economy will simply slow down for a few years or if there will be a lot of out migration as opportunities within our state dry up. Despite the bleak forecasting, as a future job seeker it is important to remember two things: 1) Alaska has survived an oil recession before and 2) there are things you can do to make yourself marketable in a volatile economy.

First thing, Alaska has survived a similar oil glut before. From 1986-88 oil prices in Alaska fell and it caused people to lose jobs, foreclose on homes, and for government spending to cut dramatically. However, Alaska did not turn into a Mad Max war zone of Arctic pirates. Yes, banks failed, the housing market collapsed, and Alaska experienced a couple years of job losses; but, many people dug their heels in and proved the oil crash could be survived. And in many ways Alaska's economy is much more stable today than it was 30 years ago. So, even if oil prices remain low for many years, weathering the storm should be easier than it was during the last bust.

The second and most important thing to remember is that you have a lot of control over a huge factor in your employability: you! In a rough economic time, you want to make sure you are doing things to increase your marketability and flexibility as a future employee. All types of work experience, not just that in your intended career field, can add to your career flexibility. An example from my own background was using experience from my summer jobs in construction to get a track maintenance position on the Alaska Railroad after I graduated from UAF. Though a railroad career was not my long-term goal, it allowed me to meet my needs while I explored opportunities in education and social services. During times of career uncertainty (due to the economy or personal indecision), it is comforting to know you have options.

A great way to increase your *marketability* is to gain volunteer or work experience, as a student, that will apply to your future career. This is something that few students do, which is why it can really make you stand out. This experience can come in many forms. It could be a HUMS student working part-time as a behavioral health aid, a CST student taking an IT Internship, or even a Marketing student volunteering as a social media coordinator for a non-profit. Experiences like these not only show an employer that you have work ethic, but also that you can apply your classroom knowledge in meaningful ways. Depending on the amount of experience you have, it may even qualify you for higher-level jobs after graduation.

There are many ways to make sure you can weather a volatile economy. Focusing on work experience is simply the low hanging fruit. If after reading this article you are wanting help figuring out how you can increase your career flexibility or marketability, call student services at 745-9762 to make an appointment today.

Hello Arctic Dragons!

During the month of February, please join the math department in support of our local teen shelter MyHouse.

The outreach coordinator has given us a list of things that will help them provide the priceless service they do for the youth of our local community.

All month long we are sponsoring a supply drive for the needs of MyHouse.

There will be a donation tubs throughout campus (JKB, FSM, SNOD) with flyers for the event taped on the outside.

Please think of us when you are shopping or going through your extra supplies at home and bring things to donate.

All donations will go to MyHouse in Wasilla. The drive will end February 29th.

Alaska Native Cultures Club thanks all involved with last semester's *Heyi niłtu* Celebration!

By Lisa schwarzburg *Photos courtesy of Heather Dunn of Ambience Photography*

Last semester MSC's Alaska Native Cultures Club sponsored a multi-event celebration commemorating November as Alaska Native Heritage Month on November 18th, 2015. Attended by local tribal organizations, artists, local Job Corps, Indian Education, and health corporations; including 2 potlucks, Alaska Native drum and dance groups; along with the evening's *Pamyua* concert in MSC Glenn Massay Theater, the celebration was deemed a huge success by all involved.

In the true spirit of ANCC, supporters and organizers brought all of this to the Glenn Massay Theater, the MatSu College, and your Valley Community. So, all in all, ANCC has proven themselves as part of the MatSu college and Alaska Native community whose support and giving reaches far and wide.

Through the efforts of many, from President Kitlisa Carson and Vice President Corrina Atkins Cultural Advisor Rachel and the entire Heyi niłtu Food Committee, there was a great spread, and we were all fed with the wonderful salmon and other goodies. Thanks also go to the ANCC secretary Jack Rogers II whom almost single-handedly took care of funding and facilitating the event and Cultural Advisor Rachel Goodall (her instruction on how to make Eskimo yo-yos was a big hit).

Thanks Mike Swanson, maktak-cutter extraordinaire, Staff Advisor and stalwart leader. All of these folks embody the *Heyi niłtu* spirit of coming together.

A special thanks to members all ANCC members especially Jaclyn Cabalas, Reina Ewan, Michael Kirby, Alexis Hickman and Pete Peterson for pitching in as needed with moving, cleaning, and kitchen chores, and some even participating in hosting their art tables.

And, all other members who have stepped in our meetings along the way where possible. All input has led ANCC to this point. I am honored to be associated with such a creative, giving, talented (and apparently, tireless) group.

Special thanks are also extended to our MatSu College family:

- MSC Director Talis Colberg, for giving us the ability to make *Heyi niłtu* Celebration and *Pamyua* concert happen by supporting us and approving the Student Government expenditures to do so. It was also great to see him and Assistant Director Diane Erikson there on the morning of the event.
- MSC Student Government-for graciously hearing and answering our requests for funding to make *Heyi niłtu* Celebration and concert happen.
- Of course, the Glenn Massay Theater staff (Matt, Kristen, and Scott) for having the place ready for us, and accommodating us for the Heyi niłtu event and Pamyua concert. We have all learned a lot about ticket sales, marketing and production this year.
- Maggie Boman and Bernadette O'Neil of MSC Business Office and Copy Center-for processing ALL the (sometimes last-minute) financial expenditures and copy requests. Courtney S. and Bonnie W. from Marketing and Communication for help with promotion and name tags for the ANCC club.
- Last, but definitely not least, Pattie Shultz from CIOS for her impromptu efforts the day of *Heyi niłtu* Celebration with raffle tickets and Yup'ik immersion school donation jar.

All in all, ANCC can look back on this event with a good feeling about this great kick off to more of this to come—while moving forward with their mission:

"To provide Alaska Native students a group-based avenue for camaraderie; facilitate leadership and a platform of common interests."

With all the comments from Job Corps, artists, and community member attendees at 2015's *Heyi niłtu* Celebration, I think we can safely say, Mission Accomplished!

Finally, in that spirit—there ANCC donated collected funds for help with rebuilding efforts of the recently burned down Ayaprun Elitnaurvik, Yup'ik immersion school in Bethel. After this wonderful ending to a great semester, the ANCC is now gearing up to celebrate Elizabeth Peratrovich Day 2016 with a forum, food, films, and fun. See articles and announcements in this edition of the Monitor.

And, if you are not already a member, come join! Meetings are every Monday from 11:50AM to 12:50PM in FSM 201 (Conference Room upstairs). Bad time for you? There are still many opportunities to get involved . Visit the club site on MSC website for contact information.

Rachel Goodall, MSC Alaska Native Culture Club Cultural Advisor, teaching Heyi niltu participant how to cut maktak (whale skin with blubber). A whaling captain from a northern Alaska Native Village shared the maktak for the celebration.

Athabaskan beading is featured in these hair ornaments. These, along with beaded, beaver fur-rimmed gloves and other hand-crafted items of Alaska Native art were on display and available for purchase on one of many artist tables at the Heyi niltu celebration.

Ossie Kairaiuak, of the 'tribal funk' group Pamyua, performing during their concert on the evening of Heyi niltu (Dena'ina Athabascan term for 'celebrating the coming of winter') at Glenn Massay Theater, November 18, 2015

Yaari Kingeekuk, dancer with the Alaska Native Heritage Center Dancers in headdress, performing with dance fans at Heyi niltu (Dena'ina Athabascan term for 'celebrating the coming of winter') at Glenn Massay Theater on November 18, 2015.

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February 2016

From Poetry You Cannot Hide

By Alexandria Cameron

I went missing at the age of fifteen, not in a physical sense, but one in which a mirror would display to me a stranger. I had no recollection of a personality that I could, for myself, relate to. My days consisted of trying to say the things he expected me to, in order to keep him satisfied. This hadn't just become a routine, it was my life. It was who I was, or wasn't, because how can you be anything if living for someone is the only thing you have?

The life he created was one that I was merely a character in. If I misread the lines he would easily cast another actress for the part, but it always seemed for only a short time. I assume none of them read the lines as well as I. When he felt that I was contemplating switching careers he would ask, "What are you without me?" I hadn't known, and that kept me complacent.

As the years continued so escalated the plot line. The day came when I found myself sitting on a bed, in a room with girls I hadn't known, wearing hospital clothes. I had checked myself into that mental facility to follow and look after him. Doing so had only seemed fitting at the time, but it was there that I was separated from him. It was there that I escaped him.

As I spent the following weeks in scheduled activities I found myself passing time by writing with the crayons they allowed us. I will forever remember the opening lines to the first poem I ever wrote: "I see ticking clocks, as if our lives are based off a stopwatch. Disorders seem like identities, the consistency of our lives."

I realize now that the only part of the day there didn't seem to be a crayon in my hand was at meal times. We weren't allowed such amenities in our rooms. We were only allowed the crafted projects we put up on the allotted space of wall we were given. But underneath the plastic mattress I slept on is where I kept them and the scraps of paper I was able to smuggle underneath the noses of the attendants.

At night I would write in between the time it took for the person on night duty to make their way back around to my room, pretending to sleep when I heard the nearing sound of their footsteps, protecting my secret work underneath my stomach, and then continuing once they gained distance. I spent every night in that way, writing with the light coming from doorway.

There is a quote from Bonnidette Lantz (2001) that well expresses what transpired to me those weeks in captivity: "Poetry allows me to express emotions that lie dormant in the darkness of my soul until at last my pen meets paper."

Continued on page 14

Coloring Fun

by Emily Gelino-Bequette

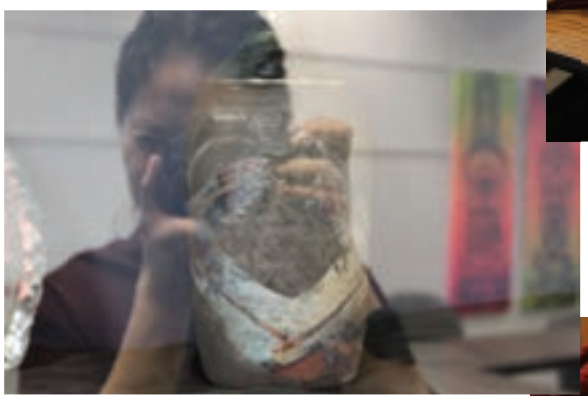
High School Portfolio Contest

Are you a high school student that wants to get a head start on your art education? Submit your portfolio in the 20th annual contest at Mat-Su College!

Drop off at FSM 212:
March 16-18
Winners announced: March 28
Show:
March 28 – April 13

4rM around Mat-Su

By Arpil Taylor



Solo Show: Painting

Shelli Franckowiak

Ms. Franckowiak enjoys painting contemporary subjects using the traditional Formline design of Southeast Alaska. She was recently awarded the Rasmuson Foundation's 2014 Art Educator Fellowship Grant which encourages the connection of artists to the practice of their art through creative work, interaction with other professional artists, and education on current practices

Please join us!

Show dates: Jan 20-March 2

Book Arts at Fireside Books

Create a book as a sculptural object

Submission: By March 4th

Art Dept., FSM 212

Show Dates: March 9th-15th

Furry Valentine Friends

by Rebecca Barnes

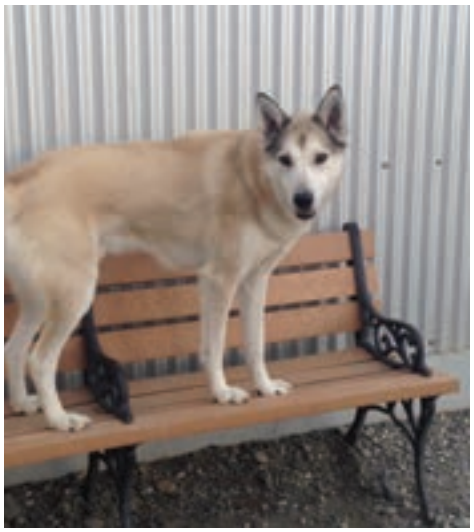
Looking for a fun furry friend to accompany your life? The Mat-Su Animal shelter has everything you've been looking for, from cats and dogs to birds and rabbits. The shelter is a fun, clean and, loving place for these animals, but it is surely not a home. These sweet loving friends need a home.

Candy

Candy is a year-old gray and orange domestic shorthaired kitten. She is loving and very friendly, and doesn't mind a nice scratch behind the ear from time to time. She would make a wonderful cuddle-buddy to lounge around the house in pajamas with. Candy is very easy going and would love to have a nice laid back home to be a part of.

Are you interested in adopting candy? If so, you can go to the shelter and give them her kennel number, A058749.

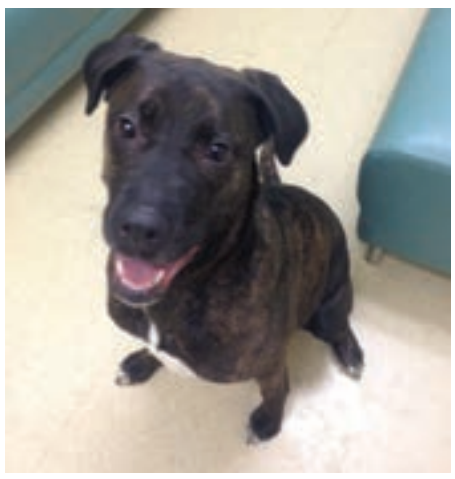
Butterball



Do you enjoy being in the outdoors? Butterball could be just the friend for you! Butterball is a 5-year-old Alaskan Husky. He has been an outdoor dog most of his life and loves to run around and play. Butterball has high energy and needs lots of exercise. Butterball is a very friendly dog and loves to be pet and given treats. If you are looking for a furry friend to be a loyal companion and accompany on any crazy outdoor adventure you have planned, Butterball is the one for you.

Interested in Butterball? His kennel number in A057944. Go to the shelter and check out this amazing friend!

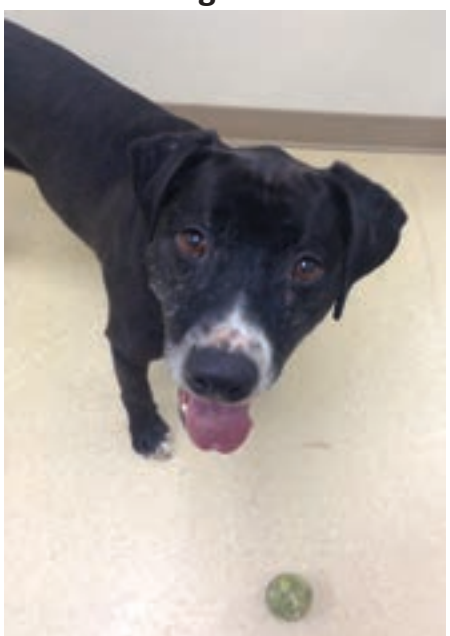
Josie



Are you looking for someone to love this Valentine's Day? Sweet Josie could be just the one for you! She is a 3-year-old brown and white pit bull mix. She is very calm and loving. She loves people and would make a very loyal friend. She is very attentive and intelligent and knows basic commands. She is a sweetheart and very well mannered. She would make a great Valentine for someone special this year.

Do you think you're in love? Go check out Josie and bring this sweet friend home. Her kennel number is A058672.

Pilgrim



Pilgrim is a sweet 2-year-old pit bull mix. Maybe you are looking for an intelligent furry friend who can do tricks? Well, Pilgrim could be just the dog for you! He knows basic commands and is very obedient. Pilgrim would be a great family dog and would be best in a home with older children. He has lots of energy and playing fetch is his favorite activity. Pilgrim is a very loving dog and would be a great friend to anyone looking.

Stop on by the shelter and check him out! His kennel number is A058157. He would love your company.

The animal shelter is off the Palmer-Wasilla high across from the Palmer dump. Go in for a visit and find your furry friend! There are many animals looking for a loving home.

LOVE TO READ?

THEN JOIN THE FIRE READING DRAGONS!

THIS MONTH'S SELECTIONS ARE:

The Christmas Jars by Jan Karon
The Crossing by Michael Connelly
The Lake House by Kate Morton
The Mitford Snowmen by Jan Karon

Please ask a library staff member if you would like more information about joining or call us at 745-9740.

SMOKERS SUPPORT GROUP

TUESDAYS
12 - 1:00
ROOM 214
IN THE
LIBRARY

Looking for

- Photographers
- Writers
- Reporters
- Marketing Reps
- Cartoonists
- Artists

Meeting times:

Mondays 12-12:50
Thursdays 12-12:50

OLB 214

(upstairs in the LIbrary)

Game Designers Club

Tuesdays, 4:00-5:00

JKB 108

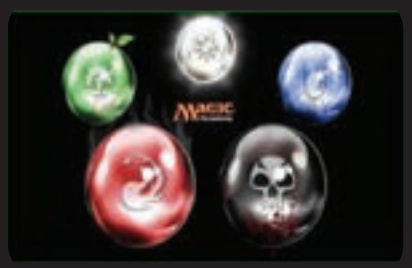
GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

MEETINGS EVERY WEDNESDAY

11:50 - 12:50 FSM 105

MAT-SU COLLEGE GAMERS



Mondays OLB 214 11:30-3:00
Tuesday OLB 214 11:00-1:00

Mondays

1:00-2:00

FSM 105

We meet **every Monday** 11:50am to 12:50pm **FSM 201**
(Art Gallery upstairs)
STUDENT CLUB CALENDER on the Mat-Su website:
http://matsu.alaska.eduOr e-mail us at: : MatSuANCC@gmail.com

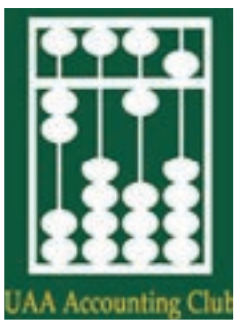
Wednesdays

1:30

Glenn Massay Theater

on stage

UAA Accounting Club



invites Mat-Su accounting students to join. Meeting times vary. For more information go to

http://www.uaaaccountingsclub.com

Living off the Grid: A simple Life?

by Lori Leahy

Most of us take survival for granted these days. We've got it pretty easy. We get our water from a faucet; we flip a switch and on comes the lights. We go to the bathroom and push the handle and the toilet flushes.

Now imagine that it is 40 below zero outside and you are sitting in a nice warm cabin in the woods. The woodstove is crackling away, there is a nice stack of firewood sitting next to it. In the corner a cluster of batteries is assembled, powering your television while you watch Netflix. Your refrigerator hums nearby. Outside of the window stands your outhouse.

As of 2012 there were 900 taxable residents living in the Mat-Su Valley without running water and 1,475 "dry cabins" in Fairbanks. This statistic does not take into consideration all of the outlying communities, according to *Cabin Living off the Grid in Frigid Alaska: A labor of Love* by Lynn Andrews.

There are five basic needs that we Alaskans have for rudimentary survival. They are: food, shelter, heat, water, and electricity. I will only be speaking of heat, water, and electricity, as shelter and food are two very broad subjects with many options, many of them personal. I will assume that if you are in this situation, already have your shelter and food situation figured out. When it comes to heating your living space, there are two basic options if you find yourself "unplugged." The first option is a fuel burning stove. These are typically called either "Toyo" stoves or "Monitors." This type of heating system requires oil. In order to run this device, one must be hooked up to a tank of oil and an electrical source. I will get to this shortly.

The second option is wood. Many people who live "unplugged" use a woodstove. This method of heating is fairly simple. The requirements for this are basically just wood and a woodstove. Of course it is helpful to be near a large source of wood that one can cut down, otherwise buying wood that is already cut can be rather costly. A typical cabin can require anywhere from five to fifteen cords of wood per winter, depending on the size of the cabin and how well it is insulated, as well as the efficiency of the woodstove.

Going for very long without bathing is not pleasant, and water for drinking, cooking, and doing dishes is an absolute essential in your living space. So one of the first things you'll need to do is find a water source. There are several options:

1. Lakes and Rivers
2. A well.

In either of these cases, you will need a container of some kind in which to put the water. You may also need a pump, depending on whether the containers are large or small. If they are small, you can fill them and carry them by hand. If the container is very large, a pump will be needed to fill and empty it. Also, if you are getting your drinking water from a lake or stream, you will need to either filter or boil it before drinking it as it can contain giardia, commonly known as a cause of "Beaver Fever."

There are various kinds of containment systems that can be used for water. They come in various sizes and can hold up to 1,000 gallons. Of course one must consider what type of vehicle he/she has to haul this quantity of water. Another concern is where to store it. In Alaska, water must be stored in a place where it will not freeze.

When thinking of water supplies, there is always the option of digging your own well. This is very costly but can be a good choice in the long run. A large benefit to having one's own well is not having to haul the water. Setting up a permanent plumbing system on the property that can handle the needs of the bathroom(s) as well as the kitchen is also helpful.

Lastly we must address the issue of electricity. In reality, electricity is not actually a necessity, but rather a preference. Truthfully, most of us would rather not have to go without it, but forced to do so, we could survive, as people have done in the past for many years before it was invented. Thankfully, there is a very viable alternative to simply using candles and oil lamps. That option is to use a generator with a bank of batteries and an inverter.

For those of you who know nothing about how electricity works (as most of us don't if we don't need to), it works like this:

The generator is hooked up to an inverter that converts the electricity from D/C (Direct current, the kind a battery uses) to A/C (Alternating current, the kind we use in our homes) from the batteries. A power cable can then be plugged into the generator to run the electrical items in your house.

There are many other ways to get electricity to your house, such as a wind-turbine, solar panels, etc., which are much cleaner and better for the environment, but a generator is the simplest method.

Why Bother?

In conclusion, we must ask ourselves, why bother with all of this nonsense if one does not need to? Firstly, we may find ourselves in a situation one day where we need to be able to rely on this type of set-up. And secondly, because living off the grid can be an enjoyable adventure. Some would say it is a simpler, freer lifestyle than having all of the conveniences at one's fingertips, and for some it is a dream lifestyle.

Andrews, L. (2012, November 15). Cabin living Off the Grid in Frigid Alaska: A Labor of Love. Alaska Dispatch News. Retrieved Feb. 1, 2016.

Business owners!

The Mat-Su Monitor is a great place to advertise your business or event. The Monitor has a wide circulation, with thousands of copies inserted in the Frontiersman and distributed thoughrout the Valley. We also have low rates:

Ad Size	Cost, B/W	Cost, Color
1/8th page	$75	$125
1/4th page	$125	$175
1/2 page	$175	$225
Full page	$275	$300
Full page, back	Always color	$375

Moreover, the Monitor runs relatively few ads, which ensures that your ad will stand out. Finally, advertising in the Monitor demonstrates your support for local students. For more on advertising, call **745-9758.**

Sharpe's Movie Guide: 9 Awesome Movies From 2015

Greetings fellow movie lovers! 2015 was a pretty awesome year at the movies. If you didn't have time to hit the cinema, fear not, I have compiled a list of a few of the must-see movies from 2015.

9. Ant-Man (PG-13); You can never go wrong with a Marvel movie, but Ant-Man is a one-of-a-kind Marvel movie. It's a heist film, it's a family film, and it's funny. It's a comic book movie with heart and is a movie that everyone can enjoy.

8. Inside Out (PG); A Pixar movie about feelings will make you feel all of the feels. There's really not much I have to say about this movie other than people of all ages can enjoy and relate to this movie. It's definitely worth a watch.

7. Trainwreck (R); I will be the first to admit that I am not the biggest fan of romantic comedies or Amy Schumer, but this movie surprised me. A New-York woman who fears commitment changes her tune when she meets a sports doctor (***played by Bill Hader***). This movie has some touching moments along with some serious laughs. It's surprisingly worth checking out.

6. Kingsman : The Secret Service (R); If you have not seen or heard of this movie, do yourself a favor and watch this movie!

5. The Martian (PG-13); Matt Damon is stranded in a place that is hard to get to and a team has to rescue him. This time, it happens to be on Mars. Matt Damon rescue movies are always worth a watch.

4. Mad Max; Fury Road (***R***): Witness the most metal movie of the year! This movie has well-armed one-armed bad ass named Furiosa (played by Charlize Theron), a flame throwing guitar player, and a whole lot of explosions, engine roars and action. Oh, and Tom Hardy is in it too.

3. Sicario (R); This movie, featuring Emily Blunt and Benicio Del Toro (***who may be one of the scariest characters I've seen in a long time***) paints a startling portrait of America's war on drugs at the Mexican border. This movie is not for the faint of heart and will make you feel on edge until the very last minute.

2. Ex Machina (R); I could easily write a two page paper about everything I love about this movie, from its originality, to its cast, to its themes about the danger of man playing god with something that it doesn't fully understand or have control of. This film is amazing and you should watch it.

1. Star Wars: The Force Awakens (PG-13) ;Okay, so this movie is still in theaters. But that doesn't change the fact that this was this girl's favorite movie of the year. I believe that everyone can find something to enjoy in this movie. Is it the best movie of the year? No. Was it my favorite movie? YES!!!

Alaska Native Cultures Club Celebrates Elizabeth Peratrovich Day: Food, Film, Forum, Fun

MSC's Alaska Native Cultures Club is set to celebrate the upcoming Elizabeth Peratrovich Day on February 16, 2016 in the Atrium and room JKB 108 with an Open House, Student Forum, and Films. Oh yeah, and there will also be food: *agutak* ("Eskimo ice-cream"), salmon spread, caribou chili, fry bread and "Indian" tacos will be among the fare offered at the event.

From 11:00AM until 4:00PM the ANCC is hosting the multi-event open house, including tables in the atrium with such representatives as the Alaska Native Justice Center, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), and Alaska Native Legal Aid; along with other health and support agencies. The drop-in atmosphere of the food and information in the atrium will be supplemented with the stop-in to learn and share atmosphere in JKB 108. There, ANCC will be looping excerpts of films on the historic Elizabeth Peratrovich speech to Alaska's State legislature and her involvement in the Anti-Discrimination Act signed into law on February 16, 1945.

One of the main events of the day, however, is the Alaska Native Student Forum, which invites all to participate as a panel of Alaska Native Students discuss topics from Student Financial Aid and how Alaska Native Students can more easily access information concerning this funding to family housing made possibly through special grants available through Alaska Native tribal groups and corporations here in the Valley. Come join the discussion, add your input, and listen to what others are experiencing and learning about issues that are unique to some here at MSC, or learn more about issues that you might share in common with others.

This forum takes place in JKB 108 from noon to 1PM in JKB. After 1PM, the films will resume showing in this room until 4PM.

To sum up, the ANCC is inviting us to remember Elizabeth Peratrovich, on this day set aside to commemorate this Tlingit woman who had the courage to stand up and speak on behalf of civil rights, and helped to place Alaska as the first among any other American state or territory to include an Anti-Discrimination Act in the law of our land.

Mission:
to provide Alaska Native students a group based avenue for comaraderie, facilitate leadership and a platform of common interests.

See the schedule below, and join in for the Open House or Forum events as we celebrate this Alaska Native "founding mother" of Alaska State's history.

Continued on page 15

Mat-Su Monitor
February 2016

College Level Course

By Everett Hamilton, Student Government Council President

Before we begin I would like to make something clear. I do not believe in giving out participation ribbons to people over the age of 13. Many people don't believe in giving out participation ribbons at all but I believe that they are great for building self-esteem in children. Once someone reaches the age of puberty it is important to let them know that with every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. When society continues to give out participation awards to young adults for merely showing up it refutes Newton's third law of physics.

When in high school you are told on an almost daily basis that every one of your classes is prepping you for college. That every course, every mundane homework assignment, and every activity is all working towards that wonderful goal of going to college. This is absolutely true for the most part. Now once you get to college you are told that the next step is your career. That your courses are intended to prep you for the work force. These courses should be the tools that you will use to succeed in the "real world."

Any class that has a participation grade and none optional group projects is not a college level course. Now granted, I mentioned both participation grade and group projects. You can have a college level course that has one or the other but not both. The reasons for this absolute truth are simple. College is supposed to prep you for a career in the work force but there are no group projects at work. Participation is mandatory at any job but simply showing up will not ensure that you get to keep that job. If a percentage of your grade is based off of participation and the rest is based off of group assignments then you could literally just go to class and do nothing and pass the class.

In the college setting a group project is an assignment where multiple people work on the same document. This happens in the professional field but not in the same context. For example, if you are a bank teller and you have to fill out a currency transaction report (CTR), which is a federally mandated form that is require if a customer is moving more than $10,000 in funds, you are the only one that fills out that form. You then send that form into the business office and they will review it and send it back for corrections. This is not a team effort. People in groups often times decided to meet outside of school to work on their project together. The sad truth is that in most "group" projects there is one or two individuals that do the majority of the work while the others just hang out for their participation grade. This does not prep any of those students to be valuable members of the workforce.

In a class that does group activities of role play or there is constant dialog in the course such as intro to theater or personnel selling participation grades make sense. A part of both of those courses is to interact with other members of the group. In any other context participation grades are just an easy out for a lazy instructor. If the only thing you have to grade someone on is whether or not they showed up then your only job as an instructor is to read roll call. This can only be described as theft. Students pay thousands of dollars to go to college. They pay for more than to just hear their own name.

If you are an instructor whom teaches a course that consists of participation grades and group projects then you are the face of a failing education system. You instill the very idea that basic laws of physics not only can be broken but priding yourself in their ignorance should be rewarded.

Winning is important. If you give participation awards to every young adult then they will never learn that genuine effort yields results and that putting little to no effort yields no results. If the world is only made up of people that always got participation awards and floated their way through group projects then the future is doomed to be riddle with ignorance, laziness, and down right stupidity.

The opinions expressed in the Editorial section of the Mat-Su Monitor are solely those of the author.

Poetry *continued from page 8*

The more I wrote, the more pieces of myself I was able to find inside of the writing. In it I found my freedom of speech, my freedom of self-expression. I found myself in the colored wax imprints my mind created. Creations that each bore a sliver of who I was.

The weeks of writing passed idly by until one day, in a morning identical to the rest, I looked in a mirror and saw myself. I was a girl: a lover of beauty, a lover of truth, a lover of people, of differences, a lover of life. I was a lover of poetry. Though above all the rest, I was a lover of myself. For poetry had not only allowed me to feel a splendor in the things I perceived, but it had allowed me to take note of the person I was. And I was something, even without him.

Somehow it came to be that we were discharged on the same day. What I once would have seen as a sign of fate I shrugged off as an accident, because it was then that I decided a lover's fate should lead to happiness. From then on I carried around a journal in which I would write things that I could hold onto. Upon my release I moved schools; he followed. But what he found in me was a change that he could not seduce back into complacency, though he tried. "When she transformed into a butterfly, the caterpillars spoke not of her beauty, but of her weirdness. They wanted her to change back into what she always had been. But she had wings" (Jackson, 2015, p. 15).

To this day that journal stays by my side,

For poetry does not lie.

From poetry you,

Can,

Not,

Hide.

SECOND KING *continued from page 3*

"Your messenger made your entreaty ere I did. Flattery does not become you, Vaard. Be candid with me." *However difficult that may prove.* He thought it prudent to omit that. Pupil-less eyes flickered to their captor.

"I refuse to speak further while the Warden stands guard. Leave us."

The Warden barked a laugh. "I answer to Ghashadious Authinaer, or had you forgotten?"

"Not with your incessant reminders, nay, I haven't," Vaard sneered. "This is on matters that do not concern you. *Leave.*" That tone spat a warning of severe consequence. Benn's resolve wavered, and he glimpsed the cliff of panic.

"Need I remind you who the prisoner is here?" The Warden was unmoved.

"You force my hand, Warden." The Warden suddenly convulsed, and his eyes glassed over. His body was frozen in inexplicable suspension. Benn saw a lone figure standing on the adjacent cliff. *The Nameless.*

"I am not going to kill you," Sorcerion hissed, and when he blinked the fires on his bars flared. "Neither him…yet. Your dreams have proven of late to be the chiefest of my concerns. My Nameless cannot read all of them. Some are my own design, of the dead ones in the water. Of the sweet genocide in the North. The others…they are of such craft that I cannot even see them with clarity. Tell me of them. What do you see?"

"I would never betray myself to you!" Benn shouted, sweating for fear of what Sorcerion might have the Nameless do to him.

"Would you submit your wife to such torments as I can devise for the sake of your sheer agony? Tell me at once, lest you provoke my wrath."

"You fear what they tell of!" Benn realized. "What they could mean for you."

Sorcerion did not answer with his mouth.

"You are afraid."

Sorcerion spat through the corners of his mouth. "I am not afraid of the dragons, their vigil becomes stale. In time, it shall cease altogether. Then shall I exact my revenge." His wings rose to conceal some other glyphs behind him. His chains dangled like vines with severe weight. "I need only be certain that none live to answer in kind. I will do as I swore to do before. *Prove* myself the victor."

He inclined his enormous cranium "I need only be sure which of your Houses shall prove my greatest adversary. Not Antock, of that I could never be more sure. You beheld the standard of this House in your dreams, and I cannot perceive it. Name the House that makes itself enemy to Sorcerion!"

Benn shook his head.

"I would never tell you, Sorcerion, even if you made an effort to torture it from me. I shall be candid in turn: I do not know, though I can only hope that all of Silvara's Houses make themselves your greatest adversary. Whoever slays you, whatever standard they fly, shall be eternal friend of my Nation. I can die in that peace that someone shall."

Sorcerion was irate.

"Remember who I am, Second King. I am the shadows between and behind the stars, and the cold winds of Exilos. I am the power that makes stillborn the light of Culvak. I am the grief of your wife, the doubt of your son, and the pain behind all pain. Sorcerion will not suffer insult."

"Then until next time," Benn told him, not daring to blink again. "Now release the Warden."

The dragon was loosed from his invisible bonds and plummeted forward. The Nameless had departed.

"I make oath that House Antock shall leave no heir in the last days of this earth," Sorcerion finished, disappearing into his darkness. Benn saw the enormous chain that held his neck. It snaked down the cliff and down for miles and fathoms to the bottom of that earth. "This Sorcerion swears."

The Warden was asleep now, Benn realized and he would not risk waking him. Likely he was dreaming. *I'll not wake the dreaming dragon,* he decided. So he climbed up the Cliffside and began his trek to the western harbor.

From this vantage point on its top he could see the Summerund Isle, his gift to House Ballendiir, a twinkling light at the edge of the Ice Waters. Evening descended into night when he reached the port itself. He boarded the Silvaren galleon of a vessel awaiting him while the sails were raised and the anchor was lifted from the natural harbor.

"Make for Gelduis!" Captain Shanehem ordered his men.

I come home to you at last, sweet Elenyah, your Benne.

PERATROVICH *continued from page 13*

Event: *Elizabeth Peratrovich Day* *Tuesday, 16 Feb 2016*	Place	Activities	Time
Open House: "Drop-In"	**MSC Atrium**	**Information Tables:** • ACLU • AKNat Legal Aid • AKNat Corporations, • AKNat Health, Housing, Student Financial Aid Health **Food:** • salmon spread caribou chili • fry bread • "Indian" tacos • *agutak* ("Eskimo ice-cream")	**11AM-4PM**
FORUM: "Stop-by"	**JKB 108**	Panel of Alaska Native Students • Discuss selected topics • Concerning student and family issues here in the Valley and on MSC Campus	**12:00 (noon)-1:00PM**
FILM Excerpts: Continuous loop-screening, for "drop-in" viewing	**JKB 108**	Film excerpts: • For the Rights of All: Ending Jim Crow in Alaska • *This Land is Ours*	**12:00 (noon)-1:00PM**

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